

# Construction Career Pathway

MISSOURI ECONOMIC RESEARCH & INFORMATION CENTER  
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
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## What are Career Pathways?

Career Pathways are groups of occupations within a career field. Occupations within a pathway share common skills, knowledge, and interests. The pathways use industry-recognized credentials and are examples of how different levels of training or education can help provide opportunities for career advancement.

### Missouri Numbers:



**15,735 Employers**



**126,375 Workers**



**\$64,664 Average Wage**

### Why Have a Career in Construction?

The Construction industry represents 5.6 percent of total private sector employment in Missouri, employing over 126,000 workers in more than 15,000 businesses in 2020. Average annual wages in this industry are \$64,664, higher than the state average of \$54,801 for all industries.

Employment in this industry has been steadily growing, increasing 2.1 percent per year from 2015 to 2020. The Construction industry is projected to grow 6.9 percent from 2018 to 2028, adding over 8,000 new jobs over the 10-year period. In addition to new job growth, workers will also be needed to fill replacement positions as employees retire or move to employment in other industries.

Along with formal training in community colleges and technical schools, many construction occupations, such as Carpenters, Bricklayers, and Cement Masons can be mastered through paid apprenticeships. From Laborers to Engineers, there are a variety of careers in the Construction fields of Skilled Trades, Engineering, and Quality Control.

### Know the Basics

Construction depends heavily on delivering solidly built structures on a deadline so the ability to plan, schedule, and follow directions while working on a team is important. Safety and quality control are also a critical part of this industry. Soft skills, such as interpersonal skills, professionalism, and dependability, are important in all industries and occupations, including Construction.

### Skills needed for Success:

Construction has a set of industry-wide technical competencies that represent the knowledge and skills necessary to be successful in this industry. Some of the skills that may be needed for success in Construction are craftsmanship, both building and construction design, building, and installation, as well as business fundamental skills such as contracts, budgeting, and cost estimating.

### Who's Hiring in Missouri?

**CDM Smith**

**J.E. Dunn Construction**

**Arco Construction Company Inc.**

**Emery Sapp Sons**

**Turner Corporation**



## Skilled Trades

## Engineering & Quality Control

### Now

#### Short-Term On-the-Job Training

**Construction Laborers**  
Entry: \$34,860; Average: \$51,200

See Next and Later categories for job opportunities  
in Engineering & Quality Control

**Certificates:** Construction Materials  
Testing, Construction Site, Safety Technician

### Next

#### Certificate, Associate Degree, Apprenticeship, Moderate- to Long- Term On-the-Job Training

**Plumbers**  
Entry: \$45,350; Average: \$64,910

**Carpenters**  
Entry: \$41,560; Average: \$60,100

**Electricians**  
Entry: \$43,260; Average: \$61,490

**HVAC Mechanics & Installers**  
Entry: \$36,040; Average: \$48,390

**Certificates:** Plumbing, Carpentry,  
Electrician, HVAC Engineering  
Technology/Technician

**Electrical & Electronics Drafters**  
Entry: \$51,130; Average: \$70,820

**Architectural & Civil Drafters**  
Entry: \$45,130; Average: \$61,020

**Mechanical Drafters**  
Entry: \$44,760; Average: \$59,220

**Degrees:** Engineering  
**Certificates:** CAD Certification

### Later

#### Bachelor's Degree or Advanced Degree

**Construction Managers**  
Entry: \$70,950; Average: \$102,170

**Cost Estimators**  
Entry: \$53,120; Average: \$74,300

**Degrees:** Construction Management, Business  
Administration and Management

**Electrical Engineers**  
Entry: \$77,960; Average: \$103,420

**Civil Engineers**  
Entry: \$66,170; Average: \$86,410

**Degrees:** Engineering

#### Sources:

EMSI Burning Glass Technologies Labor/Insight™ tool  
Employment and Training Administration, Competency Model Clearinghouse  
2020 Occupational Employment Survey Wage data, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Top employers data is based on 2021 online job ads



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